National Nuclear Security Administration

Press Release
LLNL garners ‘Best in Class’ award from NNSA

April 30, 2012

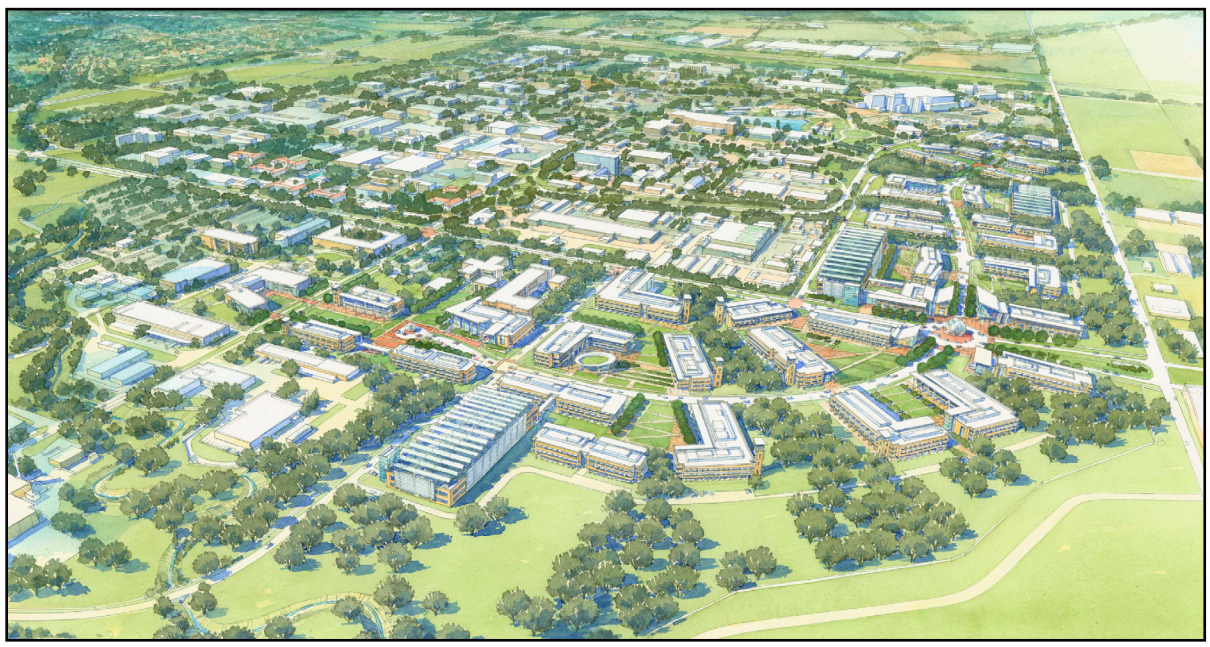
WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today congratulated its national laboratories and sites for achievements in environmental stewardship, awarding a total of 24 Pollution Prevention (P2) Awards for innovative initiatives across the enterprise.

The P2 Awards recognize performance in integrating environmental stewardship practices that helps to reduce risk, protect natural resources and enhance site operations.

“I applaud the work done at NNSA’s sites in finding creative ways to reduce the environmental impact of our work,” said NNSA’s Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs Don Cook. “As part of our commitment to being effective stewards of the taxpayers’ money, NNSA will work to improve the way it does business while being responsible to the environment in the communities that host us and of which we are a part.”

The P2 Award recipients are selected by a panel of judges within NNSA from several NA-10 offices and NNSA Site representatives. The panel reviews and scores the submitted nominations for recognition.

This year, NNSA awarded 12 Best in Class awards and 12 Environmental Stewardship awards out of a total of 40 nominations submitted in 10 award categories.



An aerial rendering of the LVOC facing north.

In addition to three awards given to Livermore Lab in the category of Environmental Stewardship, the Lab also received a Best in Class award in the Integrative Planning and Design category for the “High Performance Computing Innovation Center: LLNL Program and Facility Development with the Environment in Mind.” The LLNL High Performance Computing Innovation Center (HPCIC) serves as an example of program and facility development with a focus on environmental stewardship.

This facility is one of the first in the Livermore Valley Open Campus (LVOC) area, where researchers are active within a wide range of science domains including climate modeling and computational energy. Consistent with programmatic goals, the facility was designed with the environment in mind.

Site design includes the first permeable pavement used at LLNL, and native vegetation to limit water consumption. The facility itself was constructed from refurbished trailers at a cost savings of $200,000 and a waste generation avoidance of 85 tons. Finally, the trailers were oriented to reduce heat build-up during long summer days and to share use of existing curb cuts and roadway.